

Juduser

From: Bechtel, Kirsten <kirsten.bechtel@yale.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:54 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Consideration of HB 5403

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for raising HB 5403, an important measure to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to use the roads. I urge the legislature to pass this bill in 2016.

I am a pediatrician who works at the Children's Emergency Department at Yale-New Haven Hospital. I have treated children who have been struck by cars who did not yield to them when crossing in the crosswalk. I often see cars and trucks not yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Because this behavior is so common, most pedestrians have been trained not to assume vehicles will stop for them. If this bill is passed, it would deter at least some reckless drivers, making the streets safer for everyone.

There are so many benefits to more people walking and biking: it is healthy, good for the environment, and reduces congestion on our roads. However if walking and biking are not safe activities, people will not do it. Accordingly, passage of this bill will have ancillary benefits beyond safety, such as improving public health, the environment, and the quality of life in our cities and towns.

Thank you for your consideration of my views and please pass this bill.

Respectfully,

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